DO NOT ENTER

Remarks/Arguments:

Preliminary Matters:

Claims 1 and 3-51 are pending. Of these, claims 9, 12-16, 18-29, 34-46 and 48-50 have been withdrawn from consideration in accordance with a restriction requirement. Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11, 17, 30-33, 47, and 51 stand rejected by the final Office Action dated November 9, 2004. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and offer the following remarks.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 -- Heyn in View of Marianne

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11, 17, 30, 32, 47 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,201,757 to Heyn et al. (Heyn) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,042,589 to Marianne (Marianne). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Heyn in view of Marianne for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claims 1 and 47, as amended, recite at least one feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Heyn or Marianne taken singly or in combination, namely:

> . . . anchoring means in at least one of the retrograde portion or the anterograde portion for anchoring the *proximal end* of the endoluminal device *in the body lumen* to minimize relative axial movement between the proximal end of the device and the body lumen during deployment of the device *from the device proximal end toward the device distal end.* (Claim 1).

> . . . an inflatable balloon mounted radially inside the retrograde portion for anchoring the *proximal end* of the endoluminal device *in the body lumen* to minimize relative axial movement between the proximal end of the device and the body lumen *during deployment of the device from the device proximal end toward the device distal end.* (Claim 47)

The italicized text above highlight patentable features of the present invention as claimed, namely that the claimed introducer comprises an anchoring means or inflatable balloon for anchoring the *proximal* end of the endoluminal device *in the body lumen* during deployment of the device *from the device proximal end toward the device distal end.* One aspect of applicants' invention comprises a structure for deploying a prosthesis from its proximal end to its distal end. *See* page 3, lines 18-27 of the originally filed specification. This feature is advantageous in applications where accurate placement of the proximal end of the stent is desirable for successful treatment. *See* page 2, line 27 to page 4, line 6 of the originally filed specification. The ability to control the proximal terminus of a prosthesis component is of